



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 29, 2016

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## Active shooter training exercises planned for Everett Mall

EVERETT - The Everett Police Department will conduct active shooter training scenarios at the Everett Mall during 2017.

Starting in January of 2017, Everett Police will begin a series of monthly scenarios to train officers for an active shooter situation at the Everett Mall. An active shooter is defined by the US Department of Homeland Security as an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area where there is no pattern or method to the selection of victims. These situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly which necessitate a quick and dynamic response from law enforcement.

While this training has been planned for months, real world events reinforce that scenario-based exercises are necessary law enforcement training tools. "Law enforcement cannot be one-dimensional," says Sergeant Maryjane Hacker. "We must train for situations where rapid deployment, teamwork and quick thinking will save lives. Our training is designed to address these key points."

With support of the Everett Mall management, scenarios will occur during normal business hours in areas not accessible to the public and will consist of police and fire personnel, actors and equipment designed to give officers realistic and practical experience in responding and managing a shopping mall mass shooting incident.

During the scenarios, a special radio frequency will be used. SNOPAC911, Everett's 911 call center, has been notified and is prepared to handle calls about the training activity and overheard radio transmissions. To alleviate confusion or concern, areas used to stage police and fire vehicles will be closed to the public. Signs will be posted indicating a training exercise is being conducted in the area.

The first training dates will be on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Monthly training dates after January will be advised via our Twitter account (@EverettPolice).

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